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**FRESNO MAN CHARGED WITH AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT**

FRESNO- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a three-count indictment was returned late yesterday against DOUGLAS RAY RICHARDSON, 28, of Fresno for identity theft, aggravated identify theft, and attempted bank fraud.

The case was a jointly investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Fresno Police Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Stanley A. Boone, who is prosecuting this case, RICHARDSON used the identification of another person without that person's knowledge to purchase two vehicles from an auto dealership. The vehicles purchased were a 2000 Lincoln Navigator and 2000 Lincoln LS sedan for over \$50,000. RICHARDSON used the victim's identity on at least one other occasion to defraud a business.

The aggravated identity theft charge carries a mandatory minimum of two years with a maximum of fifteen years. The bank fraud charge carries a maximum of five years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine.

The charge is only an allegation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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